

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

August 6, 2015

**5:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mayor James Calnon, Councilors Rachelle Armstrong (W1), Mike Kelly (W2), Dale Dowdle (W3), Paul O'Connell (W4), Becky Kasper (W5)

**Absent:** **Councilor Joshua Kretser (W6)**

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**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on July 23, 2015 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Armstrong  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the weeks ending July 29, 2015 in the amount of \$ 254,760.46 and August 5, 2015 in the amount of \$ 329,498.97 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the weeks of July 23 – August 5, 2015
- Report from the Building Inspector's office August 4, 2015

**RESOLVED:** That the reports as listed are hereby ordered received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor O'Connell  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**4. CORRESPONDENCE OR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None**

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**5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the bills Audited by the Common Council for the weeks ending July 31, 2015 in the amount of \$ 1,997,221.27 and August 7, 2015 in the amount of \$ 455,228.35 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Kasper  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL:**

**Robert Poulin of North Country Center for Independence** spoke about their July 24, 2015 press release calling on the Mayor and City Council to go forth with an ADA audit of all city facilities including recreational areas.

**Debra Buell** indicated she had spent 3 hours at marina doing an ADA Audit. She understands from Sandra Geddes that Kevin Farrington was down there and acknowledges the shower bar is in the wrong place. It will take about 2 weeks to write up this report and she and Robert will discuss what to do with it.

**Simon Conroy** spoke about his request for the Downtown Rising event on August 21, 2015.

**Marti Martin of Upstate NY for Bernie Sanders** requested using a parking space near Farmers Market to distribute campaign information.

**Kevin Farrington City Engineer** wanted to clarify misrepresentations by previous speaker regarding the marina shower ADA compliance.

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**7. OTHER ITEMS:**

**A. RESOLVED:** It is the policy of the Common Council of the City of Plattsburgh to encourage city departments and city residents to refrain from the use of GMO seeds and to refrain from the use of pesticides in the practice of lawn care and beautification.

- Whereas numerous scientific studies have demonstrated the danger of neonicotinoids and glyphosate used in conjunction with GMO crops to the health of honeybees and other pollinating insects<sup>1</sup>;
- Whereas numerous studies have established that heavy neonicotinoid and glyphosate use in agricultural and commercial applications have contributed to an increase in cancer, birth defects, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, kidney failure, autism and many more<sup>2</sup>;
- Whereas a growing list of nations all over the world have banned the practice of planting GMO crops and spraying them with massive doses of neonicotinoids and glyphosate<sup>3</sup>;
- Whereas a growing number of jurisdictions in the U.S and Canada have introduced legislation designed to reduce and eliminate GMO and/or pesticide use <sup>4</sup>;

- Whereas local anecdotal evidence strongly indicates that pollinating insects, in particular honeybees, are endangered by the growing of GMO corn and the corresponding use of pesticides;

The City of Plattsburgh Common Council also resolves that:

- Residents of the City of Plattsburgh are encouraged to refrain from neonicotinoid and glyphosate use;
- City of Plattsburgh department heads are encouraged to minimize the use of pesticides and GMO seeds and to work toward eventual discontinuation of the aforementioned products;
- Commercial interests are encouraged to find alternatives to neonicotinoids and glyphosate in their operations;
- Although GMO crops are rarely grown within the city limits, the Common Council encourages our neighboring jurisdictions to adopt policies discouraging the use of GMO crops and spraying them with neonicotinoids and glyphosate;

The Common Council of the City of Plattsburgh acknowledges that we are unable to prohibit the sale, distribution and promotion of neonicotinoid and glyphosate pesticides and GMO seeds at this time. Therefore, our resolution can only be used to discourage the use of these within the city limits. We can use our influence, however, to implore State of New York and United States legislators to take statewide and nationwide measures on the production of GMO crops and the use of neonicotinoid and glyphosate pesticides. Therefore, the Common Council of the City of Plattsburgh resolves to:

- Direct correspondence to the governor of New York and our state elected legislators to encourage legislation at the state level banning the use of glyphosate, neonicotinoids and GMO seeds;
- Direct correspondence to our elected federal legislators requesting that U.S. Government take action to ban GMO seeds and the use of neonicotinoid and glyphosate pesticides nationwide.

If at any time it is conclusively proven that glyphosate use, neonicotinoid use and GMO crop production is in fact not harmful to pollinating insects, particularly our local honeybee population, then this resolution can be rescinded. However, currently, given the overall scientific evidence and the local anecdotal evidence from beekeepers and other agriculturalists, the Common Council affirms that the practice of GMO agriculture and the accompanying use of neonicotinoids and glyphosate appear to be harmful to the well-being of our citizens and must therefore be discouraged.

Footnotes:

1. The most recent study, Sub-lethal exposure to neonicotinoids impaired honey bees winterization before proceeding to colony collapse disorder conducted at Harvard University appeared in the June edition of the Bulletin of Insectology. - <http://www.bulletinofinsectology.org/pdfarticles/vol67-2014-125-130lu.pdf>

A slightly less scientific discussion of the same study: <http://csglobe.com/harvard-study-proves-why-the-bees-are-all-disappearing/>

2. A good place to start to learn about the contribution of neonicotinoids and glyphosate to disease: <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/index.php?s=cancer>

Another good link to understand the relationship between disease and pesticides:

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/2013/10/elevated-pesticide-exposure-documented-in-new-york-city-residents/>

3. A partial list of countries that have banned neonicotinoids, glyphosate and/or GMO crop production:

- European Union
- Colombia
- Sri Lanka
- Brazil
- Argentina
- Bermuda
- Hungary
- Peru
- Russia
- China

4. A partial list of jurisdictions that have adopted anti-pesticide and/or GMO resolutions:

- Eugene, OR,
- Thurston County,
- Spokane and Seattle, WA,
- Shorewood and St. Louis Park, MN and
- Portland, OR
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Province of Ontario, Canada
- Kamloops, British Columbia
- Maui, Hawaii
- Fairfax, CA
- West Hempstead, NY
- Takoma Park, MD
- Seattle, WA
- South Portland, ME

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Armstrong

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**B. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Jean Pierre Turgeon to use one slip and space for a tent to hold the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Omnium Champlain sailing regatta at the Plattsburgh City Marina on August 29-30.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor O'Connell

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**C. WHEREAS,** The City of Plattsburgh is committed to securing funding to further the priority projects identified by the City of Plattsburgh's Waterfront Visioning Project Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, The Downtown Corridor, Sports and Activity Complex, and the City Beach have been identified as catalytic projects through the Visioning process and an assessment of parking, housing and retail is needed to further develop projects; and

WHEREAS, The City has a strong commitment to supporting local businesses, nonprofit and municipal offices and believes the Innovation Fund is a way to help transform Plattsburgh through grants and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, Funds are available to support these projects through the 2015 Upstate Revitalization Fund Initiative; and

WHEREAS, The City will create a cross-sector committee to allocate the Innovation Fund; and

**RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that the Director of Community Development is hereby authorized and directed to apply for funds through from the 2015 Update Revitalization Fund Initiative.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor O'Connell

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**D. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a 3 month leave of absence for Janelle Henry, Lab Technician at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, after 12 weeks of FMLA leave ends.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Armstrong

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**E. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves MLD to advertise for sealed bid for PMLD Bid No. 2015-8-1 “Electric Power Distribution Transformers.” Bid opening date: September 10, 2015 at 11:00am.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**F. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Conroy Farm Presents to hold an event in Trinity Park on Friday, August 21, 2015 from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The event will involve erecting a tent, closing Trinity Place and Lower Court, vendors (including beer/wine/cider samples), use of electricity and attendance of approximately 300 people.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Kasper

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper

(All voted in the affirmative)

**Resolution amended as follows:**

**F. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a revocable permit for Conroy Farm Presents to hold an event in Trinity Park on Friday, August 21, 2015 from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The event will involve erecting a tent, closing Trinity Place, vendors (including beer/wine/cider samples), use of electricity and attendance of approximately 300 people allowing Conroy Farm Presents to obtain an Umbrella vendor fee to cover all vendors in the event and provided that all Department of Health and State Liquor Authority Conditions are obtained and that the Insurance offered is deemed adequate by the City’s Insurance Carrier.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor O’Connell

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**G. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that SUNY Police to divert and direct one-way traffic in a westerly direction (as in past school years) on Rugar St between the Myers Building and Sanborn Ave on August 22, 2015 from 7am to 7pm.

By Councilor Dowdle; Seconded by Councilor Armstrong

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**H. Motion to waive rule 4 for initial Consideration** “Request from Promotions and Special Events Coordinator Sandra Geddes for the following street closures during the Battle of Plattsburgh weekend events September 11 – 13, 2015:

Friday September 11 (5pm-11pm), Saturday, September 12 (9am to 11pm), Sunday, September 13(9am to 5pm): City Hall Place from Cornelia to Bridge, Court and Trinity Square from Margaret to City Hall Place. Parade: Saturday September 11, 2015: Cumberland Ave from Margaret to Saily close at 10 am until parade cleared. Also, eastern end of Durand and Lorraine from Ianelli. This would permit traffic to use both streets freely up to Ianelli where it could loop back out to Saily if needed. Bridge street from Durkee to Macdonough during the parade. Lorraine and Durand from Saily to Cumberland, Ianelli, Nichols, Cedar and Kellogg all be coned for no parking on one side of the street from midnight Sept 11 until the parade clears the area on Sept 12. This will help facilitate movement of floats, busses and emergency vehicles while the parade is forming.

By Councilor O’Connell; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

**RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the following street closures during the Battle of Plattsburgh weekend events September 11 – 13, 2015:

Friday September 11 (5pm-11pm), Saturday, September 12 (9am to 11pm), Sunday, September 13(9am to 5pm): City Hall Place from Cornelia to Bridge, Court and Trinity Square from Margaret to City Hall Place. Parade: Saturday September 11, 2015: Cumberland Ave from Margaret to Saily close at 10 am until parade cleared. Also, eastern end of Durand and Lorraine from Ianelli. This would permit traffic to use both streets freely up to Ianelli where it could loop back out to Saily if needed. Bridge street from Durkee to Macdonough during the parade. Lorraine and Durand from Saily to Cumberland, Ianelli, Nichols, Cedar and Kellogg all be coned for no parking on one side of the street from midnight Sept 11 until the parade clears the area on Sept 12. This will help facilitate movement of floats, busses and emergency vehicles while the parade is forming.

By Councilor O’Connell; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

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**8. TRAVEL REQUEST: None**

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**9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:**

**1.** Request from Promotions and Special Events Coordinator Sandra Geddes for the following

street closures during the Battle of Plattsburgh weekend events September 11 – 13, 2015:

Friday September 11 (5pm-11pm), Saturday, September 12 (9am to 11pm), Sunday, September 13(9am to 5pm): City Hall Place from Cornelia to Bridge, Court and Trinity Square from Margaret to City Hall Place. Parade: Saturday September 11, 2015: Cumberland Ave from Margaret to Saily close at 10 am until parade cleared. Also, eastern end of Durand and Lorraine from Ianelli. This would permit traffic to use both streets freely up to Ianelli where it could loop back out to Saily if needed. Bridge street from Durkee to Macdonough during the parade. Lorraine and Durand from Saily to Cumberland, Ianelli, Nichols, Cedar and Kellogg all be coned for no parking on one side of the street from midnight Sept 11 until the parade clears the area on Sept 12. This will help facilitate movement of floats, busses and emergency vehicles while the parade is forming. **(Move to agenda under “Other Items” Letter H)**

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#### **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mayor Calnon added the following resolution:**

**RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council authorizes the use of a parking space for the “Upstate NY for Bernie Sanders campaign” that is near but not abutting the Farmers Market.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Armstrong

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

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#### **11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Marti Martin** thanked the Council.

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Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle

Roll call Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper

(All voted in the affirmative)

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:27pm**